



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending September 9, 2007

Issued weekly, April-November

Released September 10, 2007, 4 pm

This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Excellent week for Field Work: Many farmers were hoping to get some more rain, but instead the weather was warm and dry all week. The crops and pastures are beginning to show signs of drought stress. Twenty-six percent of the fall plowing has been completed. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included baling straw, fall plowing, filling silos, mowing pastures, preparing for fall seeding, repairing equipment, making hay, chopping corn for silage, and harvesting oats, corn, potatoes, tobacco, apples, and peaches.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 9, 2007

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
16	36	47	1

Crops: Ninety-four percent of corn has reached the dough stage. This is 1 point higher than this time last year and 5 points higher than the 5-year average. Seventy-two percent of the corn has now entered the dent stage. This is 1 percentage point lower than this time last year and 5 points higher than the 5-year average. Thirty-four percent of the corn crop has reached maturity. This is 8 percentage points higher than the previous week. It's also 4 and 8 points higher than the previous year and 5-year average respectively. Corn conditions show that 52 percent of the corn crop is in good or excellent condition. Forty-four percent of the corn for silage has been harvested. This is 2 points lower than this time last year and 4 points higher than the 5-year average. Fifty percent of the soybeans are in good or excellent condition. Sixteen percent of the potato crop has been harvested. Currently our potato harvest is 24 percentage points behind the 5-year average and 27 points behind this time last year. Seventy-three percent of the tobacco crop has been harvested. This is 19 percentage points higher than the previous year and 2 points higher than the 5-year average. Eighty-six percent of the hay made was in good or excellent condition as 95 percent of the third cutting and 35 percent of the fourth cuttings of alfalfa have been completed. Eighty-four percent of the second cutting of timothy hay has also been completed.

Pennsylvania's fruit crop looks very promising this season! Ninety-five percent of the peaches have been harvested. This is 1 point higher than the 5-year average and 3 points lower than this time last year. Forty-two percent of the apples have now been harvested, which is 1 point lower than this time last year and 6

points higher than the 5-year average. Ninety-three percent of the apples are in good or excellent condition.

Livestock: Twenty-five percent of the state's pastures are in good or excellent condition. Overall pasture conditions were reported as follows: very poor 11%, poor 23%, fair 41%, good 22%, and excellent 3%.

U.S. as of September 2, 2007: In the west, with the exception of portions of Washington, it remained dry with above average temperatures. Precipitation and average temperatures were limited to patchy areas of the Southwest, which received small amounts of moisture. Across the remainder of the Nation, except isolated portions of the mid-Atlantic and Corn Belt regions, temperatures remained above normal. Moderate rains were received in areas of the Corn Belt stretching northeast from southeast Nebraska to central Wisconsin. Farther south, moderate rain fell along the Texas Gulf Coast, stretching east through the Delta and into the Southeast, Tennessee Valley, and southern portions of Virginia. Central and eastern areas of Georgia and the southern tip of South Carolina received more than 4 inches of rain during the week.

Corn: Most of the crop in the major corn producing States had reached the dough stage, with 96 percent at or beyond dough. Seventy-nine percent had reached the dent stage, and 25 percent of the acreage had matured. Progression at or beyond the dough stage was ahead of normal by 4 points, while acreage reaching dent was 12 points faster than the normal pace, and the maturation stage was 8 points ahead. As the dough stage wrapped up, it progressed 5 points during the week. Corn denting progressed 16 points during the week, in line with last years development at this time. Corn reaching maturation moved 6 points ahead of last year's pace. In the central Corn Belt, as well as in Kentucky, corn advanced more than 20 points during the week into the maturation stage.

Soybeans: Fourteen percent of the soybean crop was at or beyond the leaf dropping stage. Moving 8 points during the week, development was ahead of normal by 3 points. Rapid advancement occurred in Louisiana during the week, with progress advancing 26 points, 19 points ahead of normal progress.

Small Grains: Barley harvest was winding down by the end of the week with 96 percent of the acreage harvested, 13 points ahead of normal progress. All States were at least 10 points ahead of normal progress with the exception of Washington, which was ahead of the 5-year average by 1 point.

Weather Data For Week Ending September 9, 2007

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 9, 2007					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	93	59	75	9	0.49	1	17.03	-2.58	49	2,501	301	3,951
Franklin	90	49	72	8	0.10	1	17.65	-4.46	62	2,359	295	3,831
Meadville	88	55	72	9	0.95	1	15.92	-6.07	63	2,391	499	3,850
Mercer	90	50	72	8	0.07	1	19.92	-1.04	60	2,323	280	3,787
Springboro	90	44	70	5	1.25	2	18.40	-0.93	74	2,062	-116	3,495
Warren	92	47	71	8	0.25	1	20.60	-1.48	62	2,143	139	3,590
North Central												
Bradford Region	85	45	68	8	0.02	1	18.85	-3.26	70	1,684	215	3,077
Emporium	87	48	70	9	0.42	1	23.91	1.82	62	2,200	550	3,662
Kane	88	41	68	9	0.03	1	22.71	0.24	63	1,704	263	3,100
Laporte	82	46	67	4	0.50	1	17.04	-3.31	66	2,002	-53	3,423
Lock Haven	90	50	72	8	0.03	1	13.37	-6.73	48	2,606	432	4,080
Port Allegany	88	45	69	9	0.10	1	17.76	-3.08	60	1,858	241	3,267
Renovo	91	49	72	8	0.75	1	19.29	-0.81	54	2,479	305	3,952
Ridgway	88	43	69	8	0.30	1	18.58	-3.51	67	1,927	277	3,361
Stevenson Dam	90	50	72	11	0.00	0	16.68	-5.41	54	2,308	658	3,767
Towanda	89	42	70	7	0.38	1	14.26	-2.64	61	2,188	117	3,615
Wellsboro	83	43	67	7	0.25	1	22.07	5.11	67	1,854	294	3,258
Williamsport	88	54	73	7	0.00	0	14.94	-4.84	52	2,784	387	4,282
Northeast												
Hawley	87	48	70	8	0.00	0	20.41	1.14	55	2,059	281	3,497
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	89	54	72	7	0.11	1	18.11	-0.61	52	2,519	243	3,996
Susquehanna	89	47	69	9	0.23	1	21.44	0.85	61	2,137	444	3,573
West Central												
Butler	90	50	71	6	0.18	1	18.00	-3.01	58	2,353	216	3,823
New Castle	94	50	74	9	0.46	2	18.06	-0.97	57	2,574	437	4,055
Slippery Rock	90	51	73	10	0.03	1	20.44	0.02	59	2,475	548	3,951
Central												
Altoona/Blair	86	55	72	7	0.47	1	18.43	0.27	61	2,471	193	3,943
DuBois	87	55	71	9	0.05	2	18.41	-2.68	68	2,247	268	3,706
Lewistown	90	50	72	6	0.00	0	19.53	-0.07	54	2,643	147	4,127
Middletown	91	60	76	7	0.00	0	18.19	-1.14	45	3,136	323	4,645
Prince Gallitzi	88	45	68	6	0.00	0	19.59	-3.82	53	2,097	263	3,542
Selinsgrove	90	48	73	8	0.00	0	14.35	-5.83	48	2,608	269	4,083
State College	88	53	73	9	0.00	0	15.95	-2.41	54	2,639	386	4,117
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	91	54	73	5	0.00	0	21.05	-0.10	58	2,776	200	4,266
Lehighton	84	49	68	2	0.92	1	24.76	3.77	62	2,439	-51	3,917
Matamoras	87	51	69	4	0.12	1	22.34	1.10	57	2,232	-22	3,694
Mt_Pocono	83	51	68	8	0.22	1	21.08	-1.45	69	2,049	491	3,479
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	89	60	76	11	0.01	1	19.31	-0.13	59	2,892	605	4,390
Derry	89	53	73	8	0.00	0	28.91	8.65	56	2,421	260	3,891
Myersdale	89	46	69	4	0.00	0	18.28	-3.76	60	1,923	-203	3,348
Mount Pleasant	89	49	71	8	0.00	0	23.16	0.09	59	2,383	452	3,864
Pittsburgh Intl	91	59	75	9	0.53	2	18.37	0.03	54	2,803	411	4,296
Connellsville	92	57	75	8	0.00	0	21.64	-0.02	68	2,723	288	4,216
Waynesburg	91	52	73	8	0.00	0	19.64	-0.49	59	2,535	315	4,021
South Central												
Biglerville	89	55	74	6	0.05	1	16.19	-1.90	48	2,895	148	4,397
Everett	88	48	70	4	0.00	0	18.07	0.37	59	2,137	-128	3,599
Hanover	90	56	75	6	0.00	0	15.45	-2.64	46	2,851	104	4,344
Harrisburg_AP	90	58	75	6	0.00	0	15.10	-4.23	40	3,044	224	4,556
South Mountain	88	51	72	7	0.00	0	18.60	0.44	51	2,316	45	3,780
York	90	56	74	6	0.00	0	19.42	-0.21	47	2,772	39	4,272
Southeast												
Green Lane	89	54	73	6	0.00	0	22.26	1.74	55	2,824	363	4,315
Hamburg	90	55	73	8	0.00	0	21.70	-1.96	53	2,889	632	4,386
West_Chester	90	53	73	4	0.00	0	23.93	1.74	47	2,767	41	4,254
Lancaster	90	56	74	6	0.00	0	20.89	0.17	44	2,848	247	4,347
Neshaminy Falls	89	51	71	4	0.00	0	27.93	4.07	54	2,652	81	4,129
New Holland	90	55	74	6	0.00	0	21.78	1.06	51	2,944	343	4,436
Philadelphia	90	64	77	6	0.00	0	22.17	1.90	45	3,335	362	4,857
Philadelphia NE	90	59	76	6	0.00	0	22.50	2.23	54	3,284	311	4,806
Reading	91	57	75	8	0.00	0	20.84	-1.25	54	2,990	432	4,492
Valley Forge Na	89	48	72	3	0.00	0	22.90	1.52	59	2,812	-75	4,311
Willow Grove	89	60	74	7	0.00	0	21.90	-1.96	60	2,956	385	4,453

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney - Adams County had another week of dry weather. Temperatures were in the 80's most days and nighttime temps high 60's. Soil moisture level is still dry and still in drought conditions for crops.

Corn silage harvest resumed this week as corn matured since rains two weeks ago. Corn is still the most effected crop due to the drought this summer. Soybeans continue to grow and the pods are starting to fill out and are doing pretty good even though it's been dry. Soil preparation for 2008 wheat and barley crops was being done this week. Producers are concerned about soil moisture level to get seeds germinated for small grain crops. Sweet corn is pretty much over. Mixed hay has grown some from rainfall 2 weeks ago and producers are making hay this week to try to get all the forage they can for their livestock. Pastures are also greening up for some additional grazing for livestock.

Peach harvest continued and should be completed within the next week. Peaches were smaller in size due to the drought this year. Apples continue to be harvested. Apples also tend to be smaller in size due to drought and trees are a concern for 2008 budset due to lack of moisture. Some trees are loaded with a heavy crop and putting stress on trees also.

Overall, farmers are busy in the fields harvesting the crops that are there. Many producers are talking about the lack of feed available due to the drought conditions and not going to have enough to carry them through the winter months.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Dry week again and a return to summer conditions. The advantages gained by the week of cool and wet weather two weeks ago have been lost and we are now in drought stress again. Continuing the harvest of corn for silage and preparing for fall grass seedings; planting barley and making hay were the activities of the week. Peach harvest nearly completed, not an unusual crop but very good in quality.

BUCKS COUNTY, Fournier - Corn silage harvest nearing completion. Yields and quality were respectable for the most part. Early planted corn looks like it will yield well. Later planted suffered from lack of moisture at grain fill and yields will be down. Beans look good from the road but many fields don't have the height they should have at this point. Pod fill is a question mark given the lack of moisture. A good shower over the next couple of days would help finish the beans - too late for the corn.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little - It was a beautiful week for field work. Hay making and harvesting potatoes were the principle activities this week.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - It was another dry week. We need rain again.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - This was another good week for haying. Producers are starting to look ahead for corn silage and fall cover cropping. Weekend rains will keep the pastures in good conditions for some extra gains on cattle for this fall.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig - Following adequate moisture levels as a result of mid August rains, the present soil moisture conditions are back to drought conditions. Corn and beans are showing moisture stresses. Excellent forage harvests recently as a result of August rains but producers are extremely short of forages for the season.

Silage harvest is proceeding rapidly with yields varying from 8 to 18 tons/acres. Beans are turning yellow and starting to drop leaves. Corn is rapidly maturing as plants are shutting down due to moisture stresses.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner - Many acres of 3rd and 4th crop hay harvested in the past week. Northwest Venango County corn crop is short and farmers reporting insurance claims. Farmers are getting ready to start chopping corn silage.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger - Warm weather has accelerated fruit and vegetable harvest in the Northeast.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. - Showers may slow field work a little. Harvesting of corn silage, tobacco are the main activities in the county.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill - A nice shower is need to get fall seedings up and growing!

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola Pflieger - Received 4 inches of rain this past week. Ground is still very dry. It did not help any crops. My tomatoes are the size of gulf balls and just about as hard. Potato crop was only 1/2 of last years. Soybeans are starting to turn yellow. Have never seen our county this dry.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The week was hot and dry causing many of the crops to continue to dry prematurely. The soybeans are turning color and beginning to drop the leaves. Some of the corn that has ears, the heat and dry conditions are causing the ears to drop. However, the weather was very favorable for good haymaking for this time of the year. The main activities for the week were haymaking, silo filling and preparing for fall seeding.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr - Best hay-making week of the year. After the August rains the hay cuttings being harvested now are very high yielding and excellent quality. Corn silage harvest is just getting started and the crop looks excellent.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 9, 2007

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	26	26	22
Corn, dough	94	93	89
Corn, dent	72	73	67
Corn, mature	34	30	26
Corn, harvested	6	4	6
Corn silage, harvested	44	46	40
Barley, planted	6	3	12
Tobacco, harvested	73	54	71
Potatoes, harvested	16	43	40
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	95	93	85
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	35	29	34
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	84	87	84
Peaches, harvested	95	98	94
Apples, harvested	42	43	36

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 9, 2007

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	17	11	20	39	13
Soybeans	12	13	25	31	19
Quality of hay made	1	1	12	37	49
Pasture	11	23	41	22	3
Apples	0	0	7	50	43

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